MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

held at

225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 19th September 1983, commencing 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. R. Harper	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance:

Mr. M. Sevior

Apologies for non attendance received from:

Messrs. A. Dash, B. H. Macintosh, O. J. Slattery, J. Rigby

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Board meeting held 9th August 1983, having been circulated, were received, confirmed and adopted.

Moved: Mr. Mitchell
Seconded: Mr. Rundle

3. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 12.i

The Board noted the intention of Mr. Dash to resign as Director delegate of the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association and the proposal of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association that Mr. Maurice Sevior, a Director of that member Association, should replace him as delegate.

The Board resolved:

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(i) *that subject to receipt of formal written resignation from Mr. Dash that his resignation be accepted and that the appreciation of the Board be conveyed to him for his contribution to the affairs of the Federation;*

(ii) *that the casual vacancy so created be filled by the appointment of Mr. Maurice Sevior as delegate representing the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.*

Moved *Mr. Rundle*
Seconded *Mr. Long*

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Sevior to the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i To Premier from Chairman

expressing concern about developments in the Federation's relationship with Ministry Employment and Training and the Government's Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

Matter under investigation and considered response will be forwarded on completion.

4.ii To Drouin Co-operative Butter Factory

proposing closer involvement with the Federation.

4.iii From The Terang and District Co-operative Society Ltd.

requesting reduced rate of subscription for current financial year.

The Board resolved:

to grant the concession sought and that The Terang and District Co-operative Ltd. pay a subscription of $300 for the year ending 30th June 1984.

Moved *Mr. Long*
Seconded *Mr. Rundle*

4.iv From Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company Ltd.

advising that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, New South Wales has declined to grant exemption from the N.S.W. Co-operation Act to allow Murray Goulburn Co-operative to trade as a Co-operative in the State of New South Wales.

The Board resolved:

That an approach be made to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Victoria seeking confirmation that the revised Articles of Association of Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company do not breach the Certificate granted under Section 49(2) of the Co-operation Act 1981 and that the assistance of the Registrar and Minister administering the Co-operation Act be sought in interceding with the Registrar Co-operative Societies, New South Wales, to enable Murray Goulburn to continue trading in that State as a Co-operative.

4.v ACMAL

The Board noted current takeover bids being made for this major Victorian Co-operative non-member of the Federation and, after discussing the merits of making a public statement on the value of preserving Co-operative enterprise in the State, agreed no public action be taken at this stage.

4.vi Federation of Co-operative Housing Societies

The Board noted the renewed liaison between this Federation and the Co-operative Federation and the submission made to the Government proposing savings in housing assistance by greater use of Co-operative Housing Societies.

The correspondence was received and action taken endorsed.

5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SHARES

Applications for membership of the Federation together with requisite subscriptions and application monies for fully paid qualifying shares were received from

Central Gippsland Herd Improvement Co-operative Society Ltd.
Mullawingee Jojoba Co-operative Ltd.

The Board resolved:

These two Co-operatives be admitted into membership of the Federation and five two dollar shares be issued to each of them.

The Board received an application for five two dollar fully paid shares together with relevant application monies from Victorian Credit Co-operative Association Ltd.

The Board resolved:

That five two dollar shares be issued to Victorian Credit Co-operative Association Ltd.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Simm

6. FINANCIAL

A statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1/7/83 to 31/8/83 and estimated Balance Sheet as at 31/8/83 was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

A statement of Income and Expenditure covering the 1983 Annual Conference was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

The Board directed that costs associated with Printing and Stationery and Postage be apportioned to the Conference account rather than to general operating expenditure.

The Board noted the instruction from the Annual General Meeting requiring the creation and publication of a scale of fees for membership by credit unions and Building Societies. It directed

the matter be referred to the Finance Committee for preparation of recommendation to the next Board meeting.

Moved Mr. Rundle
Seconded Mr. Mitchell

7. SERVICES

7.i Bulk Fuel Purchasing

Seven oil companies were contacted by the Executive Officer to assess interest in negotiating tenders for bulk fuel ordering. Shell, Ampol, Esso and B.P. expressed interest but sought more detailed information. The matter was referred back to the Committee comprising Messrs. Macintosh, Simm and Executive Officer for study and submission of recommendations to the Board.

7.ii Centralised Banking

The Executive Officer reported that seven member Co-operatives had co-operated by providing Bank Statements for the months of May/June 1983 to enable a detailed list of daily balances to be prepared for study of differences between individual banking and group banking arrangements for the Co-operatives and the Federation. The study is initially being carried out with the assistance of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.

The Board directed

a similar study be undertaken by C.F. N.S.W. and a Bank to enable comparison of cost benefits to be made.

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8. EDUCATION

The Board accepted the proposals of the Executive Officer and directed that detailed programmes be prepared for consideration at the next Board meeting for:

(i) Director Training last week March 1984, Melbourne.

Two days covering Co-operative philosophy & principles
Analysis of Financial reports
Co-operative Legislation
Role and function of Co-operative Directors

Mr. B. C. Cooper, Western Australia, to be invited to present the last session.

(ii) Executives of Trading Co-operatives

Second week of March 1984 - Albury, N.S.W. in conjunction with Co-operative Federation N.S.W.

Market strategies for retailers, organised and presented by Marketing Focus, Perth.

The response of Trading Co-operative members to the proposal was required to be obtained before commitment made.

(iii) Directors, Executives, Rural Trading and Agricultural Co-operatives

July/August 1984 - U.S.A.

participation in American Institute of Co-operation Summer Institute on University campus with 2-3,000 U.S. Co-operators, visit U.S. Co-operatives. Travel arranged through member Victorian Producers with commissions payable to Co-operative Federation. Promote through individual directors after fixing detailed itinerary and obtaining A.I.C. promotional material.

9. EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Harper reported the Ministry Employment and Training had called a meeting of the Funding Committee which, in addition to giving consideration to one application for funding assistance, was used as a vehicle to enable the Ministry to give some information on the situation affecting the Employment Co-operative Development Programme arising from the Evaluation study. Papers have been and are being written for the Minister on options for future direction of the Programme and copies of these have been sought by the Federation.

A further meeting has been called for 5th October to consider proposals from members of the Funding Committee on desired future directors of the Programme, role and function of the Committee.

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The Board agreed a clearer definition of the role, function and administration of a Co-operative Development Agency is required. The relationship between traditional and contemporary thinking Co-operatives also should be constantly under consideration.

The Board noted the Federation had offered its services to all funded Co-operatives to act as a co-ordinating centre for action required by the informal association of Worker Co-operatives.

10. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Long reported the Council met on 8th September 1983.

He advised that

(i) recommendations are being sought to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the elevation of Mr. Kilpatrick from member to Registrar Chairman.

(ii) Three Deputy Registrars for

Housing
Credit
Other types of Co-operatives

are to be appointed after advertising the positions.

(iii) Names and addresses of Community Advancement Co-operatives are to be supplied to the Federation.

(iv) A request to allow directors with special qualifications to be appointed to Boards of Co-operatives was considered.

The Council referred to the advice given by Professor Downey at the Federation's 1983 Conference and recommended that the desirable way of meeting the situation would be to arrange for the specially qualified person to be elected from the membership in the normal way. If this could not be achieved then the specially qualified person could be engaged as a consultant without voting rights.

The Council and Registrar Chairman agreed with the concept of improving the skills of Boards of Co-operative Directors and indicated a preparedness to reconsider the request if necessary.

Mr. Long reported that he and Mr. Rawlinson, as members of the Council, had submitted to the Council their concern on the current state of the Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

The submission from Victorian Credit Co-operative Association in response to the Minister's discussion paper concerning review of Co-operative legislation was tabled.

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11. CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Chairman advised the next meeting of the Council, C.F.A., is scheduled for 1st November 1983 in Sydney.

12. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Rawlinson reported he had visited

Community Work Society Co-operative, Hawthorn
Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative
Bendigo Trading Co-operative
Mid Murray Producers Co-operative, Swan Hill
Morwell Co-operative
Victorian Credit Co-operative Association

He had Federation promotional discussions with

Federation of Co-operative Housing Societies
Drouin Co-operative Butter Factory
North Eastern Dairy Co-operative, Kiewa

He had met groups enquiring about formation of Co-operatives

Hastings Women Home Craft Co-operative
Professional persons (engineers, architects) contracting Co-operative
Yackandandah Arts Centre Co-operative

He reported on progress in the research project associated with development of Co-operatives in T.A.F.E. Colleges.

He also reported that Bendigo Trading Co-operative has been nominated for a Small Business Award promoted by the Commonwealth Dept. of Industry and Commerce.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harper reported that he and Mr. Greer had met the Registrar for general discussion on Worker Co-operatives as agreed at the last Board meeting. He also had discussions with Minister for Consumer Affairs.

14. NEXT MEETING

The Board set Monday, 17th October 1983 at 4 p.m. as the date for the next meeting.

15. CLOSURE

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7.10 p.m.